UCCSNAL
UNIÓN DE CIENTÍFIC+S COMPROMETID+S CON LA SOCIEDAD Y LA NATURALEZA DE AMÉRICA LATINA

PRONOUNCEMENT

VACCINES FOR COVID19

UNCERTAINTIES, CONCERNS AND VULNERABILITIES

"There is no reason of State or corporate economic interests that justify silence when it comes to public health. It must be made clear, when you have a piece of information that only a small circle is interested in, you can keep it until you have adjusted it to the smallest detail and then channel it by means that only reach that small circle. But when one demonstrates facts that can have an impact on public health, it is mandatory to give it an urgent and massive diffusion (1).

Dr. Andrés E. Carrasco

The Union of Scientists Committed to Society and Nature of Latin America (UCCSNAL) declares and recognizes the importance of vaccines in the mitigation and transmission of diseases, and states for the record that it is not against vaccines or vaccination plans.

Under this principle, on November 20, 2020, the UCCSNAL published a first pronouncement on new genetic or transgenic vaccines in the context of SARS COVID19, showing concern for the accelerated development of these vaccines, without completing the appropriate research phases. Pharmaceutical corporations have carried out partial and limited evaluations (2), putting at risk both the efficacy and safety of these treatments and people's health (3).

It is important to remember that a traditional vaccine requires several years for its development, approval, and adoption into vaccination schedules. Likewise, the vaccine is characterized by having attenuated or inactivated viruses or bacteria or a protein fragment characteristic of the pathogen as antigen. New vaccines for COVID19 have been developed in record time and many of them employ technologies that are still experimental, variants of gene therapies, using recombinant DNA or biochemically modified messenger RNA (4). In this context of uncertainty about their efficacy, their use and acquisition by the various States for mass inoculation has been authorized.

Thus, the appearance of adverse effects with this new type of vaccines is foreseeable, if the technologies used are linked to the short time employed in their development and epidemiological monitoring, as well as to the massive administration of vaccines to healthy individuals in the midst of the pandemic process (5).

The UCCSNAL notes with concern the adverse reactions that are occurring worldwide, such as serious thrombotic events with serious consequences and even death (6). These reactions have not only appeared in the new vaccines, but also in the more traditional inactivated virus vaccines.

Our concern extends to the fact that neither local governments, nor drug safety agencies (FDA, EMA, OPAS), nor the World Health Organization (WHO), are warning about the problems associated with this type of vaccines that have been approved only by the state of emergency, and that only warns, in the product information, about some risks (7, 8).

The question that arises is: What will be the effectiveness of the vaccines and their adverse reactions in the medium and long term, especially in those populations that were not evaluated in the studies submitted for their authorization, such as pregnant women, children and people over 65 years of age?

The Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights clearly states that the interests of individuals must take precedence over those of science and society, and that the protection of the dignity and integrity of individuals is a non-negotiable human right (9). In the history of international ethical regulations for research, the protection of individuals and their rights has always been a priority. Likewise, we believe that, in pandemic times, the application and control of these regulations should be intensified (10).

In light of these observations, UCCSNAL would like to communicate its concern regarding the following points:

1) On the inequality that has deepened during the pandemic in Latin American countries, despite international agreements promoting solidarity and shared access to the benefits of science.

2) Limited access to information regarding possible risks of interventions, medium and long-term side effects, and liabilities in case of harm. It is the right of all citizens, before receiving a new drug or in this case, a new experimental vaccine, to be adequately informed, especially of the possible

adverse reactions, before giving their consent to participate in a massive worldwide trial.

3) On legal uncertainty and lack of guarantees, both for those who decide to be vaccinated and for those who do not, due to the absence, dispersion and inconsistency of the regulations.

4) The non-application of the Precautionary Principle in the face of uncertainty and the possibility of damage with new and insufficiently tested technologies.

5) The limits of the autonomy of individuals that are violated, even though they cannot be obligatory, in the face of the coercion exercised for the administration of vaccines.

6) The confidentiality of the agreements entered into between the States and the pharmaceutical transnationals prevents the disclosure of fundamental technical aspects of these new vaccines, in addition to favoring the exclusion or limitation of liability for any adverse reactions that may occur.

7) We consider that other preventive measures and pharmacological treatments, which are proving to be effective, have been disregarded. Likewise, it is important to value the ancestral health knowledge of the native peoples, which is having a positive impact on the symptoms of Covid. We also insist on strengthening the promotion of integral health, considering the diversity of existing medical systems.

Based on this background, UCCSNAL has conducted an exhaustive analysis of the existing literature to date, through a study focused on the design, composition and manufacture of vaccines derived from gene therapies and the associated risks, not only at the time of administration, but also in the medium and long term, confirming the risks associated with the new transgenic vaccines (see paper in the Rev. Ciencia Digna 2021) (4).

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